

Frankly I am appalled at the comments made on behalf of telemarketers. First of all I pay to have a phone in my house yet telemarketers seem to think that they have some innate right to use a device that I pay for to harrass me. (I consider all calls from someone that I have not voluntarily given my phone number to be harrassment as I generally don't want them.) This is simply wrong and needs to stop. As to the free speech argument - it also fails. The first amendment was meant to provide for free speech in public forums such as street corners etc. without state interference- it has absolutely no place in unwanted communications with private individuals.

As to the telcos they are the worst of the lot. They play both sides against each other. Since they have my phone number they seem to feel like they have the right to sell it to anyone that they wish -unless of course I pay them an extra fee on my monthly phone bill. When organized crime does such things it's called extortion - it should be called the same thing when telcos do it.

As to the Direct Marketing Association - they are all wet too. Telemarketers, spammers and all such pests should be treated in the same way that I treat insects. Squish them until they stop bothering me. Once again these folks seem to feel that there is some innate right to harrass me with phone calls. Worse that that their members call my house with a machine that doesn't have anyone on the other end of it when I pick up the phone. Then when I hang up they call me back because they didn't talk to me the first time. The end result of this is that I receive 2 harrassing phone calls that I don't want instead of one. Really folks if I set my modem to call them 1,000 on their 800 number I have committed a felony and am liable for damages. Shouldn't the members of the Direct Marketing Association be liable for the same thing. While they don't call the same phone number 1,000 times they make more phone calls than that every hour -yet they are free of criminal sanctions. I for one fail to see the difference in stealing 2 minutes of time from 42,000,000 people (about 80 years of time) than killing one person outright. You have still taken 80 years of life without permission. (I understand that this is a bit extreme but I think you get my point). As to their argument that an opt-in list is an uneconomic system. Who cares. As far as I am concerned telemarketers make their living in an sordid way and should be put out of business. Nuff said.

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